

[22 February, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(vii) Assistance to National Federation of Labour Cooperatives

CENTRALLY SPONSORED SCHEMES

(viii) Assistance for Cooperative Marketing, Processing and Storage programmes in Cooperatively Underdeveloped States and Union Territories

(ix) Share capital participation in cooperative sugar mills

(x) Assistance for grower's Cooperative Spinning Mills

(xi) Assistance to Weaker Section Cooperatives

EXTERNALLY AIDED SCHEMES

(xii) Development of Cooperative Rural Growth Centre (EAP) in Bihar

xiii) Coconut development Project in Kerala (EEC Assisted)

Earthquake in Gujarat

111. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the areas affected by earthquake in Gujarat and elsewhere in the country;

(b) the estimated loss of lives and properties in those areas and various sectors affected as a result thereof;

(c) the relief, rehabilitation and rescue operation undertaken in those areas; and

(d) the details of the Central assistance extended to the State for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) 1.97 crore population in 7904 villages in 182 taluks of 21 districts in Gujarat have been affected. No report on damage due to earthquake has been received from the other States. As per reports available

from the State Government, more than 19,000 human lives have been lost and about 1.67 lakh persons have been injured. The loss of damage to property and infrastructure, as per preliminary estimates, stands at Rs. 21,262 crore.

(c) Relief operations in the affected areas have been undertaken with the assistance of Armed and Para-military Forces, other States, NGOs, other countries and international organisations. The State Government has announced rehabilitation package with the objectives of social cultural and economic settlement with equity, community participation in the rehabilitation and resettlement programme and upgradation of quality of life using the challenge as an opportunity.

(d) An ad-hoc assistance of Rs. 500 crore was released to the State Government on 30.1.2001.

MSP for Copra and natural rubber

112. SHRI NAGENDRANATH OJHA:

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for Copra and natural rubber have been announced;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Copra for the 2001 season is under active consideration of the Government and is expected to be announced shortly.

As regards natural rubber, its prices are determined by the market forces and is not covered under the MSP. Rubber is a perennial crop with long plant life and generally cultivated with high value crops like pepper, etc.